

**To:** Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board  
**From:** Nancy Selman  
**Date:** November 29, 2003  
**Re:** Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2003

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. 12/9.

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) Update and Minutes
  - a) Minutes – question by Narragansett on 6c
- 2) Think Energy – There was much discussion regarding the Think Energy proposal. There were concerns raised, however, SEO expressed the opinion that some RECA members are very serious about purchasing renewable energy products but that more time was needed to develop the interest and create results. This was mostly because a lot of groundwork had to be covered to educate people. The opinion was expressed that university meeting held on November 13, 2003 was a useful and important start.
  - a) Concerns include:
    - i) It was not clear whether the decisions makers at universities are being reached
    - ii) Public universities may not have the match funding required for purchases of renewable energy
    - iii) The process of getting large electricity users to purchase renewable energy seemed to be taking too long and was too expensive
    - iv) Want to make sure that parties want technical assistance – need to survey the RECA members to see what kind of assistance would be most useful
    - v) Want to make sure that Think's proposal is the most effective and cost effective way to provide assistance
    - vi) Parts of proposal might be duplicative of Fund work on Wind RFI
    - vii) Goals need to be consistent with other outreach for GreenUp
  - b) Overall, there seems to be a need for technical assistance, the Fund should work to structure assistance correctly. A subcommittee will discuss the proposal and the above concerns with Mark Crowdis (Nancy Selman, Bob Grace, David Jacobson and Janice McClanaghan). Some suggestions are:
    - i) Create an overall TA budget available to large electricity users
    - ii) May want cost sharing so that stakeholders have "skin in game"
    - iii) New construction may be a better focus than retrofits – planning activity at URI was cited as an example of this/Working with the architectural community may be beneficial
    - iv) Need more info on backup rate out to people
  - c) Narragansett would like a reality check – suggests surveying RECA customers to find out what kind of assistance they need.
- 3) Smartpower
  - a) Ask to update funding commitment page in business plan
  - b) Can present at the December 9 meeting if there is information back from the Worcester campaign that would be relevant in making the decision about whether to contract Smartpower (see October 2003 minutes).
- 4) Audubon – Audubon received a proposal from a NY firm, Everpower, to provide a PV system. The proposal stated that 90% of the cost of the system would be paid by the Fund.
  - a) Pat will call Everpower to make sure they are using a licensed electrician in RI for installations.
  - b) Put on December agenda – 2 proposals, one for PV installation and one for Audubon to do outreach on behalf of the Fund.
- 5) Wind RFI
  - a) The proposal from Lefteri Pavlides, a professor at the school of architecture at Roger Williams University, for a grant of \$7500 to purchase wind monitoring equipment and photosimulation software was approved. The items purchased with the grant will be used for academic purposes as well as to help develop the market for wind turbines. The wind monitoring data will verify TrueWind windmap data. The data will need to be made available on the website.
- 6) PV RFP – Bob Grace is working on a draft contract.
  - a) GRC – responded in writing to concerns expressed by Advisory Board at the October meeting. The grant for GRC was approved with the condition that 10% of the money be held back for 6 months and released if the proposed outreach is being conducted to the satisfaction of the Fund.

- c) CSG – CSG’s grant was approved with no contingencies.
- d) Roger Williams University – The grant was approved but payment is conditional on the existing 2 kW system being fixed and development of satisfactory curriculum which incorporates the PV system.
- 7) Solar on Schools
  - a) RECS – The Advisory Board approved 100% of RECs from Solar on Schools projects being sold to green power marketers or others. Other projects, such as the Zoo and South Providence Development Corporation, which received large PV subsidies from the Fund due to the outreach value of their projects, may also sell their RECs. Each school/institution may decide whether it wants to do this. Will send a letter to the administrations and teachers explaining the concept, to be included in the Solar on Schools grant letter.
  - b) Heliotronics – There was concern over the cost of placing Heliotronics systems for data monitoring and graphic interface at each of the schools and institutions that have PV (in an outreach setting). The opinion was expressed that the need is to get kilowatt-hour data only uploaded to a website. Will research other programs in MA and NY, as well as other suppliers such as Narragansett and Ascension.
  - c) Solar on Schools RFP – will be circulated without the data monitoring issue being resolved.
- 8) Year End Review to the Legislature – a draft was circulated, which will be update and submitted for Advisory Board approval in December.
- 9) Guidelines – the section on conflict of interest is still in draft form, will circulate the final in December.
- 10) Back Up Rate Letter – A decision was made to address the backup rate letter to Narragansett instead of the PUC; will CC the PUC and the Division. All Narragansett rates will be revised 1/1/05, and the Company is already starting to talk to Division regarding a settlement.
- 11) Constellation New Energy/Warwick Public Schools – submitted a joint proposal seeking a grant from the Large Customer RFP fund to support a purchase of green power by the school district. Bob Grace made a presentation explaining the proposal and recommending that it be accepted (see attached); the Advisory Board approved the proposal. The approved amount was not capped due to variations from year to year in actual versus projected usage, and payments will be at the beginning of each year, with true-up to actual load occurring at the end of the year.
- 12) RFP Extensions – The Advisory Board voted to extend the deadlines for Large Customer RFP and Supply RFPs until March 30, 2004.
- 13) PP&L – The Advisory Board approved the disbursement of the second phase grant to PP&L as follows:
  - a) \$45,000 upon receipt of invoice dated November 15, 2004;
  - b) \$22,500 upon receipt of invoice dated February 15, 2004;
  - c) \$22,500 upon receipt of invoice dated May 15, 2004.

#### Decisions

- 1) The proposal from Lefteri Pavlides, a professor at the school of architecture at Roger Williams University, for a grant of \$7500 to purchase wind monitoring equipment and photosimulation software was approved.
- 2) The PV grant for GRC was approved with the condition that 10% of the money be held back for 6 months and released if the proposed outreach is being conducted to the satisfaction of the Fund.
- 3) CSG’s PV grant was approved with no contingencies.
- 4) Roger Williams University’s PV grant was approved but payment is conditional on the existing 2 kW system being fixed and development of satisfactory curriculum which incorporates the PV system.
- 5) The Advisory Board approved the concept of 100% of RECs from Solar on Schools projects being sold into the green power marketer.
- 6) The Fund agreed to address the backup rate letter to Narragansett instead of the PUC.
- 7) The Advisory Board approved a joint proposal by Constellation New Energy and Warwick Public Schools seeking a grant from the Large Customer RFP fund to support a purchase of green power by the school district.
- 8) The Advisory Board voted to extend the deadlines for Large Customer RFP and Supply RFP until March 30, 2004.
- 9) The Advisory Board approved the disbursement of the second phase grant to PP&L in three payments spaced 3 months between each payment, starting November 15, 2003.

#### Actions/Followup

- 1) A teleconference is scheduled to discuss the proposal from Think Energy with Mark Crowdis. A Fund subcommittee will be on the call. RECA members will be surveyed as to their needs for TA.
- 2) Grant letters will be sent to GRC, RWU, CSG for PV and one for wind monitoring and software will be sent to RWU.
- 3) A letter will be sent to schools explaining the concept of the sale of RECs from Solar on School projects and giving the Fund's approval for schools to do so.
- 4) Research will be conducted on Solar on Schools data monitoring: other Solar on Schools programs in MA and NY, as well as other methods and suppliers of data acquisition such as Narragansett and Ascension.
- 5) Finalize and Circulate Solar on Schools RFP to market (without data monitoring requirement).
- 6) Circulate to the Advisory Board a draft Year End review to Legislature.
- 7) Circulate Guidelines to the Advisory Board, to be posted on website.
- 8) Send backup rate letter to Narragansett.
- 9) Change dates on Supply and Large Customer RFPs and post/circulate.

**Attendance**  
**November 14, 2003**

- 1) Buck, Roger
  - 2) Capobianco, Julie
  - 3) Condon, Pat
  - 4) Grace, Bob
  - 5) Hartley, Doug
  - 6) Hill, Michael
  - 7) Jacobson, David
  - 8) Lamb, David
  - 9) McClanaghan, Janice
  - 10) Rose, Vin
  - 11) Selman, Nancy
- Stephens, Erich